

17 means having first and second ends and an outer perimeter, said first end of each  
18 said first and second axle extension means being attached to said inner surface of  
19 each said first and second cord end retaining means, respectively;  
20 f. first and second support extensions rotatably engaging said outer perimeter of each  
21 said first and second axle extension means [extensions], respectively

**REMARKS**

*Note extension of time*  
May 12, 1999  
The Office Action of ~~September 29, 1998~~ has been carefully reviewed. Re-examination, reconsideration, and allowance of the application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks and arguments.

**STATUS OF THE APPLICATION**

The application, as previously amended, included twenty one (21) claims including four () independent claims.

Claims 1-18 have been allowed.

Claims 19-21 have been indicated to be allowable.

No claims have been added or canceled.

Claims 19-21 have been amended.

Therefore, the application now still includes twenty one (21) claims including four () independent claims, and no additional fees are required, as shown by the attached AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER.

The amendments are supported by the application and claims as filed, and therefore do no constitute new matter.

## **DRAWINGS**

Examiner has noted that this application has been filed with informal drawings which are acceptable for examination purposes only, and that formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed. Applicant is prepared to file formal drawings when the application is allowed. However, since the drawings were not amended in the filing of this reissue application, query is made as to whether it would be possible for the Office to transfer the drawings, or copies of the drawings from the original application to this reissue application, and as to what the process for accomplishing such a transfer would be.

## **RESPONSE TO OBJECTIONS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Examiner has noted that applicant has not filed the specification using the original columns from the patent, and that applicant is required to make a statement that the specification and the abstract are true and accurate representations of the specification and abstract of the patent.

Query, must the required statement be from applicant? If not, undersigned, as a licensed patent attorney, declares that the specification and the abstract are true and accurate representations of the specification and abstract of the patent.

## **RESPONSE TO OBJECTIONS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claim 19 has been objected to because in line 12, "and in the opposite cord end retaining means" is not included even though this language is part of original patent claim 19. Claim 19 has been amended above to include the required language, but without any underlining as the now included language was part of the original patent claim.

Claim 21 has been objected to as a new claim which was not totally underlined. Claim 21 is included above, and is now totally underlined.

As the basis for the rejections to the claims have now been avoided, it is requested that these objections to the claims now be withdrawn.

## **RESPONSE TO OBJECTIONS TO THE REISSUE APPLICATION**

Examiner has objected to this application under 37 CFR 1.172(a) as lacking the written consent of all assignees owning an undivided interest in the patent.

While the patent has been licensed, there is no assignee to this application. Therefore no such consent is possible, and this objection should be withdrawn.

Examiner has objected to this application under 37 CFR 1.172(a) on the grounds that the assignee has not established its ownership interest in the patent for which reissue is being requested.

Again, while the patent has been licensed, there is no assignee to this application. Therefore, the establishment of no such interest is possible, and this objection should also be withdrawn.

Examiner has further objected to the reissue declaration filed with this application on the alleged basis that it is defective because it fails to identify at least one error which is relied upon to support the reissue application, and that therefore a supplemental reissue declaration is required.

The requirement for a supplemental reissue declaration is traversed.

In the Reissue declaration, as filed, applicant made a declaration in compliance with the statute that the patent was "inoperative or invalid by reason of (his) claiming more or less than (he) had a right to claim in a patent, and more specifically by claiming certain elements in more specific detail than was necessary." In view of the examples given at MPEP 1414.03, it is believed that the declaration as filed is sufficiently specific, and it is requested that this objection be withdrawn.

However, should Examiner determine that the declaration is not specific in sufficient detail, then applicant requests that Examiner telephone undersigned for clarification of this requirement.

## **RESPONSE TO CLAIM REJECTIONS - DEFECTIVE REISSUE DECLARATION**

Claims 1-21 have been rejected as being based upon a defective declaration under 35 U.S.C. 251, as set forth above.

As applicant has traversed the finding that the declaration is defective, he also traverses this basis for rejection, and it is requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

**RESPONSE TO CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112**


Claims 19-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for the reasons set forth in the action.

These rejections have been avoided by the above amendments to the claims, and it is requested that they be withdrawn.

**CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, it is believed that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Objections, and rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph have been avoided by amendment and by argument. It is therefore requested that the application be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Enclosures  
DWM:sfm

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING STATEMENT**

**I hereby certify that on this date this correspondence and any required fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope with proper postage attached and addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Non-Fee Amendment, Washington, D.C. 20231.**

  
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**DONALD W. MARGOLIS, Reg. No. 22,045**

**September 13, 1999**  
**Date**